

IBCM7 Conference Announced

International Brethren Conferences on Mission (IBCM) exists to bring together every four years the national leaders of local churches connected with the Brethren movement across the world for spiritual reflection, fellowship and, we pray, renewed experience of the Lord.



OUTLINE PROPOSALS FOR THE IBCM7 CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED

**by the IBCM International Planning Group and the Brethren Training Network
Steering Group**

The IBCM International Planning Group (IPG) is now able to announce that it proposes that the 7th International Brethren Conference on Mission (IBCM) is to take place at the **Hotel Selene, Pomezia, Rome, Italy from Monday 24 - Friday 28 June 2019**. This follows the pattern that has now been established of holding global IBCM Conferences every four years.

The intended title and theme for the conference are:

"You shall be my witnesses": Engaging with the world and its needs'.



IBCM7 Conference details

More detailed information about the proposed programme and arrangements for the IBCM7 conference will be published in the coming months. The dates and location are being provided now to enable those interested in participating in the conference to enter them in their diaries.

To keep up to date with plans for the IBCM7 conference, please visit the IBCM website (<http://ibcm.net>) regularly.

4th BTN International Training Consultation, May 2018

The Brethren Training Network (BTN) Steering Committee announces that it will take the opportunity to extend the conference, by holding a number of BTN sessions on Friday afternoon 28 - Saturday 29 June 2019 at the Hotel Selene for those IBCM7 participants who wish to take part in the BTN part of the programme (at extra cost, of course).

These sessions will follow up on the 4th International Training Consultation which the BTN Steering Group is organising at Emmaus College, Dubuque, Iowa, USA on Tuesday 29 May – Saturday noon 2 June 2018 at the invitation of Emmaus College. More details of the Consultation in 2018 will be given on the BTN website (brethrentraining.org) as they become available.

IBCM conference purposes

The IBCM conferences bring together national leaders and others active in the Brethren movement from across the world for spiritual reflection, fellowship and, we pray, renewed experience of the Lord.

The overall **goal** is mutual encouragement of participants and the national groups of churches that they represent.

The **specific objectives** are:

- To seek the presence and direction of the Lord together
- To enable leaders from across the world to discover and encourage one another
- To strengthen networking and fellowship
- To raise awareness of the spiritual challenges of current trends and cultural developments
- To share practical experience, ideas and methods
- To encourage younger leaders
- To encourage the development of regional conferences with similar objectives.

The IBCM6 conference in 2015 brought together 680 participants from 104 countries. As there are local churches connected with the movement in at least 155 countries, the hope is to see even more of these countries represented at the conference in 2019.

We are especially concerned to see more younger participants (in the 20 - 40 age bracket) at IBCM conferences. We encourage brethren and sisters in individual countries to consider how they can assist younger participants to come to the conference in June 2019.

The proposal to return to Italy

For IBCM conferences to be successful, there is a number of key requirements:

- travel costs need to be kept down as low as possible for as many participants as possible, particularly as many participants have to be subsidized from IBCM funds provided by a very limited number of funders;
- there needs to be a good prospect of getting visas for participants from a large variety of countries without too much difficulty;
- the Brethren movement in the host country needs to have the capability to assist in running an effective conference;
- the conference centre needs to be of good quality, not too costly, and above all large enough and with the facilities to accommodate a conference of up to 800 people; and



The IPG considered carefully a number of locations across the world and has agreed that, in the light of the factors just outlined, it would be best to return to Italy for the 2019 conference, to the same hotel as was used for the IBCM6 conference in 2015. This was widely considered to be an excellent location for a conference of this character and size, the hotel staff were themselves

- it needs to be feasible for the international organizers to co-operate easily with the host country (the key international organizers need to be able to visit the host country regularly for planning meetings).

impressed by the conference and will welcome its return, and the Italian national committee can draw on the valuable experience of 2015, including of gaining visas for participants who needed them. The leaders of the Italian Brethren have said that they would welcome and support it if the conference were again to be held in Italy.

The IPG

The International Planning Group has recently been expanded, and now comprises: Fares Marzone (Italy) (Chairman), Ian Burness (UK), Ken Newton (Australia), David Smith (Australia), Kelvin Samwata (Zambia), Neil Summerton (UK) (Secretary), Abraham Thomas (India), Russell Thorp (New Zealand).

We are sorry to say that former member of the IPG, Dr Paul Joshua (India) recently died at a young age, and another member, Reynald Kozycki (France), has a significant long-term health problem. We ask for prayer for Paul Joshua's widow and family, and also for Reynald and his wife and family.



Please update contact details

IBCM relies on having up-to-date email addresses for literally thousands of contacts in the large number of countries where there are local churches connected with the Brethren movement. It is essential therefore that we should be provided with details whenever email addresses and other key contact details change. If you have reason to believe that we may not have your latest details, you can update these either by using the message function on the IBCM website (ibcm.net), or by writing to neil.summerton@btinternet.com

PLEASE FORWARD THIS MESSAGE TO CONTACTS IN YOUR OWN COUNTRY WHO MAY BE INTERESTED TO SEE IT.

For more information about the conferences and IBCM, please see www.ibcm.net

IBCM International Planning Group and the Italian IBCM7 National Committee



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